

Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 AID-20 PC-15 USIA-12 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01

NSC-10 IO-12 CU-04 RSR-01 /129 W

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R 141400 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4269

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 0740

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR BC

SUBJECT: YOUTH PARA

REF: A. STATE 070302

B. GABORONE 0639

PERCENTAGE RESPONSES REQUESTED BY REFTEL A CONTAINED IN
REFTEL B. NARRATIVE RESPONSES FOLLOW:

I. YOUTH CATEGORIES

I- B RATIONALE: EMPHASIS ON CIVIL SERVANTS AND EDUCATION LEADERS
BASED ON FACT THAT BECAUSE OF BOTSWANA' S SMALL PRIVATE
SECTOR AND GOB POLICY OF BURSARIES TIED TO PUBLIC
EMPLOYMENT, MOST YOUTH SEEK EMPLOYMENT IN PUBLIC/ CIVIL
SERVICE SECTOR. DUE TO SIGNIFICANT GAPS IN EDUCATIONAL
ACHIEVEMENTS OF GOB EMPLOYEES, GOBT. EMPHASIS IS ON TRAINING
YOUTH FOR TECHNICAL AND SKILLED JOBS NECESSARY FOR
DEVELOPMENT.

POLITICAL PARTIES DO NOT HAVE ORGANIZED YOUTH WINGS, BUT
RULING BDP AS WELL AS OPPOSITION PARTIES INCREASINGLY INTERESTED
IN PLACING YOUNGER MEN IN IMPORTANT AND VISIBLE POSITIONS.
PRESSURE GROUPS ARE DEVELOPING IN BOTSWANA AND LEADERS IN
LABOR UNIONS AND SUCH ORGANIZATIONS AS THE CIVIL SERVANTS
ASSOCIATION WILL MAKE THEIR PRESENCE FELT ON NATIONAL SCENE
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IN FUTURE.

I- C SHORT- TERM YOUTH IMPACT: NO YOUTH GROUPS OR INSTITUTIONS EXPECTED TO HAVE SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON US INTERESTS IN NEXT 2-4 YEARS. YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS IN BOTSWANA VERY UNDERDEVELOPED AND GOB HAS ONLY RECENTLY APPOINTED A " YOUTH ADVISOR" TO STUDY SITUATION AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON YOUTH POLICY AND PROGRAMS. INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS SOMETIMES EXPRESS OPPOSITION TO US POLICIES VIS- A- VIS VIETNAM, RHODESIA SANCTIONS, US BUSINESS IN SA AND US EXPENDITURES ON SPACE EXPLORATION, BUT STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS DO NOT TAKE STANDS OR ISSUE STATEMENTS ON SUCH MATTERS.

II. YOUTH OBJECTIVES:

II- B RATIONALE: MOST IMPORTANT OBJECTIVE IS TO MAINTAIN AND STRENGTHEN FEELING OF GOODWILL AND UNDERSTANDING ON PART OF BATSWANA FOR US AND ITS POLICIES. THIS CAN BEST BE DONE BY IDENTIFYING KEY FUTURE LEADERS AND ASSURING ACCESS AND INFLUENTIAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH THEM . IN ORDER TO ENHANCE AMICABLE RELATIONS WITH YOUTH, EMPHASIS MUST BE PLACED ON PROMOTION OF UNDERSTANDING OF US GOALS AND POLICIES.

EMBASSY BELIEVES BOTSWANA' S CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT AS A NON- RACIAL, MAJORITY- RULED DEMOCRACY IS MOST IMPORTANT, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF ITS POSITION IN HEART OF SOUTHERN AFRICA. GOB AND EMBASSY STRESS THAT BOTSWANA CAN CONTRIBUTE MOST TO GOAL OF SELF- DETERMINATION FOR ALL PEOPLE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA BY MAKING SUCCESS OF COUNTRY S CURRENT POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL POLICIES.

III. YOUTH RESOURCES:

III- A IMPROVEMENTS: GOB IS FOCUSED ON JOB- RELATED EDUCATION AND TRAINING. WHILE SOME EDX- CU PROGRAMS ARE SPECIFIC COURSES OF INSTRUCTION OR ON- THE- JOB TRAINING, GREATER EMPHASIS ON PRACTICAL INSTRUCTION- REFLECTING NEEDS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES - WOULD BE HELPFUL. THE 1973 EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL PROGRAM IS AN IMPROVEMENT OVER PAST YEARS IN THAT MORE PROGRAMS, SUCH AS YOUNG INTERNS PROJECT, RELATE
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TO DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES.

III- B PRIVATE RESOURCES: PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS SHOULD BE ACTIVELY ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE IN ORGANIZING AND FINANCING PROGRAMS. SOME FOUNDATIONS ALREADY FINANCE GRANTEES ON SUCH PROGRAMS AS IFYE AND CIP. PRIVATE CONCERNS, ESPECIALLY THOSE WITH INVESTMENT IN THE COUNTRY, SHOULD BE INDUCED TO PROVIDE

SCHOLARSHIPS OR OTHER ASSISTANCE FOR TRAINING THAT COUNTRY' S YOUTH.

III- C PEACE CORPS: PCVS MAKE A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO BOTSWANA' S DEVELOPMENT BY SUCH ACTIVITIES AS 1) EDUCATION OF YOUTH BY SERVING AS SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS; 2) TRAINING BATSWANA COUNTERPARTS AND 3) INCREASING SKILLS OF BATSWANA ENGAGED IN BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS. QUALITY OF PCVS HERE HAS IMPRESSED THE BATSWANA AND UNDOUBTEDLY ASSISTED GENERALLY FAVORABLE IMPRESSION OF US HELD BY VAST MAJORITY OF BATSWANA YOUTH. HOWEVER, LIFESTYLES OF SOME MEMBERS OF VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS - AMONG THEM A FEW PCVS - ARE CONSIDERED CONTRARY TO TRADITIONAL BATSWANA CUSTOMS BY SOME LOCAL YOUTH AND THEIR ELDERS AND THIS OCCASIONALLY CREATES NEGATIVE ATTITUDES TOWARD PC EFFORTS.

IV. RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF YOUTH:

IV- B ASSESSMENT: EMBASSY RATES IMPORTANCE OF YOUTH IN BOTSWANA AS " HIGH" - MAINLY FOR TWO REASONS. FIRST, GOB HAS MADE DETERMINED EFFORTS TO BREAK DOWN " TRADITIONAL TRIBAL AUTHORITY" - WITH ITS STRESS ON THE WISDOM AND INFLUENCE OF THE ELDERS, IN ATTEMPTING TO CREATE NEW LOYAL TIES TO THE STATE OF BOTSWANA AS A NON- RACIAL DEMOCRACY. IN AN EFFORT TO ADVANCE THIS STRATEGY, ATTENTION HAS BEEN GIVEN TO PROMOTING YOUNGER CIVIL SERVANTS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. BOTSWANA NOW HAS ONE MINISTER AND ONE PERMANENT SECRETARY UNDER THE AGE OF 30. AS THE TEMPO OF LOCALIZATION INCREASES, MORE YOUNG BATSWANA WILL BE PLACED IN POSITIONS OF INFLUENCE AND RESPONSIBILITY.

SECOND REASON FOR HIGH IMPORTANCE OF YOUTH IS THAT PRIOR TO INDEPENDENCE FEW BATSWANA RECEIVED EDUCATION SUFFICIENT FOR DEMANDS OF COUNTRY' S DEVELOPING AND INCREASINGLY SOPHISTICATED ECONOMY. EMPHASIS ON ACADEMIC, TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING TO FILL POSITIONS IN EXPANDING PUBLIC

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AND PRIVATE SECTORS MEANS THAT YOUNG BATSWANA WILL BE ADVANCED ACCORDING TO ABILITY WITH VIRTUALLY NO IMPEDIMENT TO THEIR RAPID RISE TO SENIOR POSITIONS. NELSON

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973GABORO00740
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: GABORONE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730543/aaaajdev.tel
Line Count: 160
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 STATE 70302
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08-Jan-2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <14 FEB 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 980210
Subject: YOUTH PARA
TAGS: PFOR, BC, PFOR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005